



United States Fire
Administration

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

WITH FACTS

FIGHT FIRE

For more information on how you can help prevent fire deaths please contact your local fire department on a nonemergency number or the United States Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or www.usfa.fema.gov

Recently your community was struck by fire. Someone died. As you continue to report about the devastating effects of this fire, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) encourages you to remind your audience that many fire deaths and injuries are preventable.

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and more than 25,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster.

The following life-saving tips could make a big difference to your audience. By incorporating them in your story now, while the moment is still fresh, you could help save a life.

Did you know?

- *Eighty percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.*
- *During the holiday season there are over 1,200 fires and 190 fire injuries associated with improper holiday tree and candle care.*
- *Most holiday fires can be easily prevented.*
- *Having a working smoke alarm more than doubles one's chance of surviving a fire.*

Following these simple fire safety tips can boost survival rates dramatically. Please share them with your readers because knowledge is the best fire protection.

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LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- 1 Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.
- 2 Never put holiday tree branches or needles in a fireplace or woodburning stove.
- 3 When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or have it picked up by a community pick-up service.
- 4 Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wire, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up.
- 5 Only use UL approved lighting.
- 6 Do not overload outlets. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.
- 7 Do not leave lit holiday lights unattended.
- 8 Never leave fireplaces or space heaters unattended.
- 9 Avoid using lit candles. If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they can not be easily knocked down.
- 10 Never leave the house with candles burning.
- 11 Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test the batteries every month and change them at least once a year.